

## Region 5 Report

August 2024

Since our last update, I traveled to Marquette, Michigan and Columbus, Ohio for their respective state conventions. It was a privilege to swear in Penny Meinhardt as Michigan AVVA President, and Jan Baker as Ohio State Representative. In each location, we had seminars that were helpful to AVVA members on how we can best be of service to VVA. Of particular interest was learning more details about the Rainbow of Dioxin from Sandie Wilson, and Jack DeVine's presentation on the Legacy Task Force. In Ohio, Jan and I were able to answer questions from members about some of our programs, learn more from Tom Burke about Leadership. AVVA member and Ohio native Miss America 1972, Laurel Lea Schaefer, made a meaningful impact with her banquet keynote. Those of us who heard her speak in Orlando, were reminded of her passion and dedication. Each state made a substantial donation to Project Friendship. I challenged the other states and chapters, if able, to match those generous donations. I look forward to continuing to be a voice for Region 5, and being a partner with Penny, Jan and Freda in their respective endeavors that help further our causes near and dear.

Respectfully,

Tony Gigli  
Director, Region 5